



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 426.365)

Date and Time of Meeting: November 9, 2010
11:00 a.m.

Location: Washoe County Department of Senior Services
- Art Room
1155 E. Ninth Street
Reno, NV 89512
775-328-2575

Members Present: Cheryl Dinnell, Jon Sasser, Mary Bryant, Karen Taycher, Jodi Sabal, Brian Patchett, Gary Olsen, Korri Ward, Paul Gowins (Chair)

Excused: Bill Heavilin, Jim Osti

Staff Present: Todd Butterworth, Lisa Jones

Guests: Connie McMullen, Senior Strategic Plan Accountability Committee; Lisa Erquiaga, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living; Jack Mayes, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, Karla Johnston (Interpreter), Betty Hammond (Interpreter)

I. Welcome and Introductions
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Gowins called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m., and introductions were made by all present for the record. Commissioner Gowins declared there to be a quorum present with nine of the eleven members in attendance.

- II. *Approval of the Minutes from the September 16, and October 18, 2010 Meetings
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Olsen moved for approval of the minutes for the September 16 meeting of the Commission, as submitted. Commissioner Bryant seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Commissioner Olsen moved for approval of the minutes for the October 18 meeting of the Commission Subcommittee on Budgetary and Legislative Issues. Commissioner Dinnell seconded, and the minutes were approved.

- III. *Discussion of the Objectives Outlined in the 2003 Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities, and Possible Action on Identifying Priorities for Updating Those Objectives to Reflect the Current State of Disability Services in Nevada
Mary Bryant, Commission Member

Commissioner Bryant asked that any discussion or action regarding this subject be suspended until such time as it may be re-agendized for a future meeting of the Commission.

- IV. Presentation on the Activities of the Health Insurance for Work Advancement (HIWA) Program and Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
Lisa Erquiaga and Reggie Bennett, Co-Chairs of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Advisory Group

As Mr. Bennett was not present, Ms. Erquiaga updated the commission on the work completed under Nevada's federal MIG. She stated that among its several activities, the grant funded basic infrastructure for the HIWA program. Ms. Erquiaga went on to say that because the state has de-funded the service portion of that budget it will no longer be able to serve the eleven individuals currently in the program. It was suggested that those eleven individuals may be able to get future medical coverage through the Access to Healthcare Network.

The commissioners and guests talked at length, with several commissioners stating a desire to invite the MIG staff to a future meeting for an update on the proposed activities for the new MIG grant that will soon be awarded.

- V. *Discussion and Possible Action on Formal Recommendations for Budgetary and Legislative Proposals to the Nevada Legislature or the United States Congress, Related to Disability Service Issues
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

The commissioners discussed at length the proposed cuts as outlined in the State's "agency requested" budget and stated their common opinion that the new governor and legislators will need to be educated about the impact the cuts will have on Nevadans with disabilities. The commissioners expressed the urgent

need to make the Governor Elect aware of the issues now, as his budget will be complete by the end of December. Additionally, the commissioners noted that any forums the legislature might hold in order to collect public input on budget cuts should be held before the governor's budget deadline, if at all possible.

Commissioner Gowins and Mr. Butterworth explained that one outcome of the October 18 teleconference meeting of the Commission's Subcommittee on Budgetary and Legislative Issues was the decision that Commissioner Gowins would write a letter to the Governor Elect stating the Commission's concerns about the potential impact of budget cuts on Nevadans with disabilities. They further stated that the purpose of today's discussion is to further clarify the contents of that letter and solicit individual commissioners to provide specific details to be included.

Ms. McMullen shared a number of insights she has gained from her experience with this process as chair of the Senior Services Strategic Plan Accountability Committee.

As a result of the discussion, Commissioner Gowins suggested the following:

1. Commissioner Gowins will draft a letter to legislative leadership, encouraging them to hold public hearings in north, south and rural communities to discuss the proposed cuts in the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Commissioner Gowins will draft a letter to the Governor Elect which will include at least the following elements:
 - Concerns about Olmstead violations and the lawsuits currently filed in other states.
 - Examples that cuts may not save money if they cause other expenses.
 - Encouraging a look at the revenue side of the budget as part of the solution.
 - Information from specific-issue fact sheets that will be prepared by commissioners and the recent Olmstead Report completed by Tony Records.
 - A perspective that none of the proposed cuts is acceptable, rather than trying to prioritize cuts and risk pitting programs against one another.
 - Courtesy copies to the commissioners and interested parties to facilitate dissemination of the information as to which issues the Commission considers most important in the face of imminent budget cuts.

The commissioners also discussed the need to make some illustrative stories about individuals and the increasing hardships they would be faced with in the event of some of these cuts.

Commissioner Gowins asked if there were any further comments or discussion as to the drafting of the two letters he has been tasked with. There was none.

VI. *Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at the Next Meeting
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

- *Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approach for Meeting with Legislators in Conjunction with a Spring Face-to-Face Meeting in Carson City
- *Discussion of the Objectives Outlined in the 2003 Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities, and Possible Action on Identifying Priorities for Updating Those Objectives to Reflect the Current State of Disability Services in Nevada (Mary Bryant, Commissioner)
- The MIG update outlined in # IV above (Linda Bowman).
- *Discussion of the Possibility of Adding a Legislative Member to the Commission, and Possible Action Regarding Such
- Update from Vocational Rehabilitation on Their Restructuring and Use of Federal Stimulus Funding (Maureen Cole).
- Updates on other Stimulus Spending, Including IDEA Part-C (Wendy Whipple), State Independent Living (Todd Butterworth), and Centers for Independent Living (Lisa Erquiaga and Mary Evilsizer).
- Update from Medicaid on the progress of the “medical home” concept (if it has not been discontinued).

VII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was no public comment.

VIII. *Set Date for Next Meeting

A date was not set for the next meeting, however the commissioners agreed by consensus that a face-to-face meeting is needed in Carson City in the spring, in order to have access to have access to the legislators and have the opportunity to educate them. They also agreed that this approach would necessitate a phone meeting in January in order to plan for the spring meeting in Carson City.

IX. Adjournment *

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

* Denotes items on which action may be taken.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order.